Espionage in Air Head Quarters

4165. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a major case of espionage has, recently, been detected in the Air Head Quarters involving a number of seniors' in service and retired officers including a former Air Vice-Marshal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to prevent the occurrence of such incidents; and

(d) the steps taken to bring the culprits to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE(SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) and (b) CBI has recently arrested four retired and one serving Air Force personnel, one official working in the Ministry of Defence and some others.

(c) Departmental Security Instructions on handling protected information have been issued from time to time in order to ensure security of protected documents and information. Periodical and surprise security checks are carried out to ensure strict compliance of the security instructions.

(d) The matter is under investigation.

Allegations on JAG's Impartiality

4166. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a)whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Asian Age' dated the 14th June, 2001, captioned "Allegations cloud JAG's (Judge Advocate General) impartiality, credibility";

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) the action proposed for a systemic review of the military judicial system to plug loopholes and introduce accountability ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is attached.